THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). The by-laws of the Export promotion councils vary from each other in many important respects. The bye-laws of the Wool & Woollen Export Promotion Council have been framed independent of the bye-laws of other export Promotion Councils, keeping in view the nature of its activities.

The Council may, with the Approval of the Governments, amend the bye-laws, at any time if so desired by its members.

Fictitious Accounts

3133. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 152 dated July 19, 1996 regarding bank scam in payment for imports and state:

(a) the details of the persons/firms/banks involved in siphoning of Indian Foreign Exchange through fictitious accounts in foreign banks; and

(b) the action contemplated by the Government against the persons, firms and Indian banks in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Investigations into the case of suspected siphoning of funds against forged import documents channelised through certain Banks in Bombay, are continuing. Appropriate action warranted under the law will be taken again all those involved, including Individuals, firms, Banks etc.

Textile City

3134. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set any Textile City in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds proposed to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts for OBCs in Banks

3135. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to all the nationalised banks in the country to fill up vacancies reserved for OBCs;

(b) if so, the number of OBCs got employment in the nationalised banks as on December 1, 1996; and

(c) the time by which the quota fixed for OBCs is likely to be filled up in the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The reservation for other Backward classes in direct recruitment have been introduced in the public sector banks from 8th September, 1993. As per latest available information 1466 persons belonging to Other Backward Classes were recruited in different cadres in the public sector banks including 19 nationalised banks till 31.12.1995. Public sector banks have been instructed to maintain revised rosters for recruitment which includes, inter alia, specified roster points to be filled by Other Backward Classes for all vacancies filled up after 8th September, 1993.

Foreign Equity Limit in Joint Ventures

3136. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to relax higher limit of foreign equity in joint ventures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The foreign Investment Policy as enumerated is constantly reviewed to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

Export of Textiles

3137. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the liberalisation process has not yet touched the textile sector of the country which still suffers from various controls;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to remove all the restrictions affecting the export of textiles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The textile sector has benefited considerably from the liberalisation process.

(b) and (c). Except for cotton yarn, Government do not put any restrictions on the export of textiles. In the case of cotton yarn, a quantitative ceiling for exports is fixed every year based on the relevant factors such as the production and domestic demand in respect of raw cotton, the production and prices of cotton yarn, the requirement of yarn for the decentralised handloom sector etc.

However, under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing of the W.T.O., the U.S.A., the E.U., Norway and Canada maintain quantitative restrictions (quotas) on the exports of some textile and clothing items from a large number of countries, including India.